

hollow blackboys, *Xanthorrhoea*, in sandplain country about 5 miles south of the Cockleshell Gully homestead.)

The Lancelin Island population of *Ctenotus labillardieri* (= *Sphenomorphus labillardieri*, Sec G. M. Storr, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 9, 1964: 84) is morphologically distinct from the closest mainland populations in the vicinity of Perth (Zoology Dept., University of W.A.) and near Mundaring Weir in the Darling Range which constitute the known mainland limits but further collecting is necessary in the intervening area before any definite conclusions can be drawn (cf. J. Ford, *The Emu*, 62, 1962: 61).

The skink *Egernia bos* Storr is now known to occur on the mainland opposite the Jurien Bay islands which it inhabits. On March 27, 1964, Dr. G. M. Storr and I collected several specimens similar to Sandland Island material from shallow burrows along a motor-vehicle track in low heath sandplain on the north side of Mt. Lesueur.

—JULIAN FORD, Perth.

**The Skink *Egernia pulchra* in the Stirling Range.**— In my review of the distribution and variation of the skinks *Egernia pulchra* Werner and *E. bos* Storr (*W.A. Nat.*, 9, 1963: 25), I was unable to cite any specimens of the former species from the Stirling Range although there were several of the latter from the area. During a visit to the Stirling Range on November 6, 1963, four specimens of *E. pulchra* were collected on the mountain slopes of Toolbrunup and Bluff Knoll where the species was found to be exceptionally abundant, there being numerous burrows, sometimes extending to a considerable depth, under and between the slate rocks.

Particulars of the four specimens (W.A. Museum nos. R21801, R21802, R21804 and R22861) are as follows: tail/head plus body ratio; 1.60-1.71; number of mid-body scales, 36 and 38; upper labials, 7 and 8, mostly 7; ear lobules, 3 and 4, mostly 3; and sub-digital lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind limb, 25-29. According to these data, the specimens conform with the typical measurements and meristics of the mainland nominate race. However, three specimens (R21802, R21804 and R22861) differ strikingly in dorsal colouration, and the first two are of broader and heavier proportions as illustrated in the photograph. There are no dorsal black streaks as in the typical form but instead a broad reddish-brown flush six scales wide extending down the back from the nuchals. The black markings on the sides are considerably reduced and are completely absent on the tail. On the labials, there is a slight orange suffusion but no specimen has an orange ventral surface as in the race *longicauda* from the Jurien Bay islands. The ear lobules and eyelids are a bright golden yellow and the head is olive-brown. The remaining specimen (R21801) is in an intermediate colour stage between that described above and the normal colour pattern, the black streaks being slightly reduced only near the nuchals, and it has a reddish-brown flush down the centre of the back. A specimen (R16788) with partially reduced dorsal black streaks, collected at Two

People Bay on March 5, 1961, is of similar body proportions to the Stirling Range specimens R21802 and R21804.

The reddish-brown colour on the back may possibly represent a breeding condition although the complete absence of the black streaks on the back has not been previously found with material collected at similar times of the year in other parts of the species' range (Ford, *loc. cit.*).

The skinks, i.e. *E. pulchra*, were very active during my visit which coincided with fine and mild weather. When I approached them, they would run quickly to and disappear down their burrows in what seemed to be an instant, but they soon reappeared at the burrow entrance where they would remain almost perfectly still, if I did not move, showing only about a third of their body while they peered at me through eyes made vividly conspicuous by the brilliant colouring of the eye's lids.

No specimens of *E. bos* were collected on the visit. This species would no doubt occur in the surrounding sandplain country rather than on the mountains. The skink *Ctenotus labillardieri* (Gray) was common on the mountain slopes of Toolbrunup and Bluff Knoll.

—JULIAN FORD, Perth.



The photograph illustrates the three colour patterns in *Egernia pulchra*. The top specimen (R16774) was collected on Boullanger Island (north end) in August 1961, Jurien Bay; the middle specimen (R16784) on October 1, 1961, near Mt. William, Darling Range; and the bottom specimen (R21804) on November 6, 1963, on the slopes of Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range.